REPRESENTATION OF PARTITION IN THE WORKS OF SELECTED POETS

SHORT SYNOPSIS

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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

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by

Mahima Gaur

Registration number: 21/Ph.D/128

Under the supervision of

DR. SWATI CHAUHAN

Associate Professor, Department of English, SMeH

Department of English

School of Media Studies and Humanities

Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (Deemed to be University), Faridabad

Sector-43, Faridabad, Haryana, India

SCHOOL OF MEDIA STUDIES AND HUMANITIES

Certificate

I hereby declare that the short synopsis "Representation of Partition in the Works of Selected Poets" is being submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English under the School of Media Studies and Humanities. Manav Rachna International Institute of Research & Studies, Faridabad during the academic year 2023.

It is a bona fide record of original work carried out under the supervision of Dr. Swati Chauhan, Associate Professor, and has not been submitted in full or part to any other university or institute for a degree or diploma. Further, it is certified that the short synopsis is plagiarism-free and the proof has been submitted.

14/9/23.

Mahima Gaur

21/Ph.D/128

14/9/23

Dr Swati Chauhan

Associate Professor

Department of English

(Chairman, DRC)

14.9.23

CDP

ABSTRACT

The division of the Indian subcontinent is a deep and calamitous historical incident, marked by an unmatched and bone-chilling human catastrophe. This historical moment marked the beginning of a profound period of change for British India. People were divided into groups based on religion and culture and then migrated unwillingly which led to massive violence; they fractured and how to distinguish themselves. However, promoting interfaith harmony remained a fundamental value shared by all cultures. The scars of the partition, including communal Violence and displacement, continue to shape the collective memory of India and Pakistan. It was a catastrophic incident that cannot be undone in history. This research will be a thematic study, along with the evaluation of writing techniques that were implemented by the poets. This research aims to analyze a collection of poems using a systematic and thematic approach, incorporating the poetic output of the selected poets. The calamitous impact of the partition cannot be undone, and its repercussions are still felt today. The current study focuses on factors related to why and what was destroyed during and after the partition with culture, religion, caste, social standing, and other factors being the primary and key reasons.

Keywords: Poetry, Violence, Religion, Migration, Partition.

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INTRODUCTION

During the 1947 partition of India, individuals were compelled to leave their ancestral lands and encountered the formidable task of seeking new places to live and communities to help them rebuild their lives. Individuals were forcibly displaced from their native lands and faced the daunting task of seeking new homes and communities to rebuild their lives during partition. The circumstances surrounding their relocation were marked by high tension and uncertainty, leaving them with little or no plans regarding their new destinations. During partition, the Violence in these two lands, both India and Pakistan, soaked with blood in communal riots, has been depicted in the writings of many Indian poets. Partition is one of the most dreadful events in the history of India, and it has been considered the final blow of British imperialism. The events during and after the partition always appeal to rethink this country's history and nationhood. The neighbours who once lived in harmony now have this act of barbarity. The condition of the woman was the worst. The women of both communities have been raped, their genitals have been mutilated, and they have been forced to walk naked on the street. Many poets present the horrific condition of this subcontinent. The division of British India into Pakistan and India in 1947 profoundly impacted the subcontinent's population, particularly women. The partition of India resulted in Violence the immense suffering, loss of life, and communal tensions that prevailed during that period. The Violence and its consequences continue to have a long-lasting impact on the affected communities and shape the historical memory of the partition. The Violence that unfolded during the partition of India in 1947 remains a tragic and deeply significant chapter in history. Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs were caught in a vortex of hatred, fear, and vengeance. This study will analyze and examine the social and political issues related to Partition 1947, through poetry. However, the unintended consequences of this initiative soon became apparent. Many of these women may have already married and started families, having come to terms with their circumstances. The choice to uproot them once more and force them to repeat the horrific events of the division unintentionally brought up a fresh set of difficulties.

Partition entails the process of dividing or segregating entities through the creation of a demarcation line or barrier. The year 1947 stands as an epochal chapter in the twentieth-century history of India, representing the profound event known as the Partition. This pivotal moment heralded the birth of two distinct and sovereign nations: India and Pakistan. This event is widely acknowledged as one of that era's most momentous and

tumultuous occurrences. Partition and the accompanying emotional anguish have been significant themes explored in various artistic mediums, including literature, cinema, and the arts. When considered from the perspective of everyday people, Partition is etched in memory as a period marked by widespread violence, riots, and large-scale population movements, particularly in the northern and eastern regions of India. Partition remains a subject of contemplation and creative expression for a wide range of writers, poets, lyricists, and various genres that do not explicitly delve into historical narratives. The enduring emotional distress left by Partition continues to be a central focus within Indian literature in the post-independence period. The Indian subcontinent had long been under British rule. But long and continuous waves of Indian freedom movements led by indigenous enlightened people compelled the British Government to leave this subcontinent forever, handing the authority of administration over Indians. But what they did before expatriation was to build an unseen wall between the people of two major religious groups— Hindu and Muslim. And the obvious impact of this discrimination was partition. It is one of the most essential obligations of historians to record all these truths, so that the succeeding generations may learn the true history of oppression and genocide and taking the lesson, they can learn to present a sound future nation devoid of all kinds of oppression and discrimination.

Nevertheless, historians often grapple with the formidable task of fully conveying the profound tragedy of the partition. Statistical data proves inadequate in articulating the exact emotions experienced by women who, driven by the dread of abduction and mistreatment by men from different communities, resorted to desperate measures like self-immolation in wells. The statistical records provided by historians fail to effectively communicate that, for most ordinary people, the choice between India and Pakistan was primarily motivated by a pervasive sense of insecurity rather than religious or political considerations. Furthermore, historical statistics and narratives also fall short of depicting the identity crises endured by innocent individuals during the partition era, where husbands were torn from wives, brothers from sisters, and parents from their children. The work will also include two psychological theories which were entirely related to Partition one is Identity Theory and the other is Conflict Theory. History fails to adequately capture the profound suffering endured by women, who were among the most severely affected by the partition tragedy. While history primarily presents factual information and statistics, literature delves into the emotions, sentiments, and experiences of those directly or indirectly involved in the event. Unlike

history, which often remains on the surface, literature delves deep into the minds and hearts of people, providing a more profound understanding of their encounters. In this regard, history merely serves as a straightforward record of the partition, etched on pages, whereas literature serves as a reflection and portrayal of the immense suffering, hardships, and challenges faced by people during the partition tragedy. Historically, the focus tends to be on leaders and other prominent figures of the era, often overlooking the experiences of both men and women. In contrast, literature delves into the experiences of even those who are commonplace, unremarkable, and often marginalized in society. The partition of India in August 1947 stands as a pivotal moment in the subcontinent's history, shaping the post-independence relationship between the two nations. This event was marked by the largest migration of the twentieth century and the tragic loss of an estimated one million lives. The factors leading to partition and the underlying causes of the associated violence have been previously explored. However, these accounts often provide a broad overview or, at best, a regional perspective when examining the patterns of violence, resettlement, and rehabilitation. On August 15, 1947, The British government withdrew from India and partitioned the subcontinent into two newly established sovereign nations: India and Pakistan. The Partition of India and Pakistan has predominantly been studied as a historical phenomenon, with enduring consequences that continue to shape the present. This pivotal moment in Indian history, known as the partition, continues to captivate the interest of historians, lingering in the collective consciousness of the Indian people and casting a lasting shadow over our societal and political landscape. It is intricately woven into the narrative of our protracted struggle for independence, a period that transformed our nation's journey to freedom from colonial rule into a challenging and tumultuous experience marked by widespread violence, extensive bloodshed, and the involuntary displacement of countless individuals. The partition stands as an unparalleled demographic upheaval in the annals of human history, accompanied by immeasurable human suffering. This complexity makes it a formidable subject that challenges historians in their quest to fully comprehend its multifaceted dimensions. The partition literature beautifully captured the agony caused by the division and the agonizing experiences that the people of the Indian subcontinent went through. This body of work was crafted by a diverse array of poets hailing from both India and Pakistan, composing in a variety of languages that mirror the rich diversity of the region. Through the poet's literary creations, these poets encapsulated the profound human suffering,

agony, and trauma that characterized this tumultuous period in history. Notable poets like Amrita Pritam, Ali Sardar Jafri, Shiv Kumar Batalvi, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, and many others played a significant role in shaping this body of work.The renowned poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz fervently expressed his sorrow over the brutalities and horrors that marred the partition, using poignant words: "This dawn, marked by stains, this dawn, bitten by the night, is not the dawn we yearned for." In this tumultuous era, Muslims in India relocated to Pakistan, whereas Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan embarked on journeys to India, leaving behind their ancestral residences, cherished customs, and vibrant heritages. They were transformed into refugees, deprived of their belongings, and often left with only the clothes on their backs. Nevertheless, it was women who suffered the most severe consequences of this tragedy, enduring harrowing acts of violence, torture, sexual assault, and abduction at the hands of individuals from opposing communities, all in the name of religion. This distressing chapter in history gave rise to a unique literary genre known as "Partition Literature," emerging in various languages across the Indian subcontinent, including Hindi, English, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Telugu, and other regional languages. A common thread running through these literary works is an overwhelming sense of sorrow, vividly depicting the shared experiences of those who lived through this tumultuous era. The themes explored by the literary giants of this genre consistently revolve around violence, brutality, communal clashes, prejudice, arson, exploitation, abduction, sexual assault, and murder. These poets aimed to capture the profound human suffering and the lasting scars left by the partition, using their words to ensure that the collective memory of these tragic events would remain vivid and untouched by the passage of time. The poets of partition literature offered a unique perspective on the devastating impact of the partition, one that differed from the historical accounts. It's worth noting that the selected poets for this study had firsthand experience of the traumatic events of the partition. As a result, the primary objective of this thesis is to delve into and analyze the enduring human agony and trauma that individuals endured during and in the aftermath of the partition. This analysis will be conducted through the lenses of these poets, who, through their words and expressions, provide a deeply personal and emotional insight into the profound impact of this historical tragedy on the lives of countless people. Ali Sardar Jafri was a prominent poet known for his significant contributions to Urdu literature, particularly in the realm of contemporary Urdu poetry. Jafri's poetry was deeply rooted in the socio-political and cultural context of his time. His poetry often reflected the pain, hope, and

aspirations of the people during these transformative periods. During the partition period, Ali Sardar Jafri's poetry served as a powerful medium to express the anguish, pain, and hope of the people caught in the throes of this historic upheaval. He witnessed firsthand the massive migration, communal tensions, and violence that accompanied the partition, and these experiences found their way into his verses. Batalvi's poetry often delved into the complexities of human emotions, particularly love, passion, and pain. He had a unique ability to capture the essence of human relationships and the tumultuous experiences of the heart. His poems were marked by vivid and evocative imagery, making them resonate deeply with readers. Shiv Kumar Batalvi, one of the most celebrated Punjabi poets, made a significant impact on the literary landscape during and after the partition of India in 1947. Faiz Ahmed Faiz, a prominent figure in Urdu poetry, left an enduring imprint on the literary world amidst the turbulent period of India's partition in 1947. During this significant time, Faiz's poetry emerged as a powerful and resonant voice that struck a profound chord with the emotions of the people.Faiz Ahmed Faiz, an influential figure in Urdu poetry, played a pivotal role during the tumultuous partition of India in 1947. His poetry became a compelling voice that resonated with the feelings and experiences of the masses during this historic period, leaving an enduring impact on the literary landscape. He bore witness to the large-scale migrations, communal conflicts, and brutality that marked the partition, and his verses eloquently mirrored the pain and optimism of that period. One of his most famous poems, *"Subh-e-Azadi" (Freedom's Dawn)*, encapsulated the mixed emotions of that time—a celebration of independence intertwined with the reality of violence and division. Faiz's words resonated with the common people and became anthems of hope and resilience. During the partition period, Amrita Pritam's poetry became a poignant expression of the pain, anguish, and longing that pervaded the lives of countless individuals affected by the division of India. Her verses vividly captured the human suffering, loss, and dislocation caused by this historic event. She eloquently conveyed the emotions of separation, the shattered lives, and the enduring trauma of those caught in the turmoil of partition. In the deeply moving poem *Ajj Aakhaan Waris Shah*, the poem laments the loss of humanity, the brutality of communal violence, and the displacement of millions of people. It encapsulates the essence of a fractured society and contemplates the lasting trauma caused by the partition. *"Ajj Aakhaan Waris Shah Nu"* stands as an enduring piece of literature that still connects with its audience, serving as a poignant testament to the profound emotional wounds inflicted by this

significant historical episode. Amrita Pritam summons the presence of Waris Shah, a celebrated Punjabi Sufi poet from the 18th century, urging him to emerge from his resting place and bear witness to the horrors of the partition. Through her verses, Pritam expresses the anguish and pain that she, along with countless others, experienced during that period. Amrita Pritam, a renowned Punjabi poet made an indelible impact on the literary landscape during the tumultuous era of partition in 1947. Sahir's poetry during the partition era was marked by a powerful and evocative style that resonated with the common people. He eloquently depicted the pain, despair, and longing that accompanied the division of India. His verses captured the collective trauma, loss of innocence, and overwhelming emotions of the time. One of his most iconic poems, *"Parchaiyan" (Shadows)*, poignantly reflects the shattered dreams and fractured identities resulting from the partition. Sahir's words often served as a voice for the voiceless, expressing the anguish and resilience of those who endured the partition's hardships. Partition poetry vividly illustrates how the borders of India and Pakistan were arbitrarily delineated by an indifferent foreign authority devoid of any firsthand understanding of the intricate demographics of undivided India. Their art reflected the voice of conscience and philosophy of life, which was based on their struggles. They always preferred to recite verses on the battlefield rather than seek gratification.

Literature review

Bashir Mahmood Saba. ***I Swallowed the Moon: The Poetry of Gulzar.*** **HarperCollins. 2013**

The work discusses the collection of poetry that delves into the works of the renowned Indian poet and lyricist, Gulzar. In this book, Bashir provides a comprehensive exploration and analysis of Gulzar's poetry, shedding light on its themes, styles, and the deeper meanings hidden within the verses.

Hashmi Madeeh Ali. ***Love and Revolution Faiz Ahmed Faiz: The Authorized Biography.*** **Rupa Publications India. 2016**

This biography, written by Ali Madeeh Hashmi, offers an in-depth look into Faiz's life, including his early upbringing, education, literary career, and his active involvement in political movements. It delves into his relationships, personal struggles, and his unwavering commitment to progressive causes.

Jalil Rakhshanda. ***Gulzar Footprints On Zero Line: Writings On The Partition.*** **HarperPerennial. 2018**

This work depicts Gulzar's discerning perspective that goes beyond the events of 1947, as he skillfully compiles a selection of his most notable writings, including fiction, non-fiction, and poems, all centred around this significant subject. The partition, in his view, transcends being a mere act of division, a historical incident confined to a specific moment and location; instead, he perceives it as an ongoing process and a constantly evolving narrative. He takes a fresh look at the repercussions of the partition, which encompass not only the political aspects but also delve into the emotional and psychological impacts.

Wanjari D Priya. ***Amrita Pritam Her Poetry and Literature.*** **Dattsons. 2020**

This work aims to shed light on the literary works and accomplishments of a renowned post-colonial writer in Punjabi and Urdu, particularly focusing on her portrayal of the profound struggles and challenges faced by Indian women during the latter part of the twentieth century. Through her poignant and thought-provoking writing, this influential author delves into the intricate experiences and hardships that women in India encountered in

the evolving socio-cultural landscape of that era.

Hashmi Madeeh Ali. *Love and Revolution Faiz Ahmed Faiz: The Authorized Biography.* Rupa Publications India. 2016

This biography, written by Ali Madeeh Hashmi, offers an in-depth look into Faiz's life, including his early upbringing, education, literary career, and his active involvement in political movements. It delves into his relationships, personal struggles, and his unwavering commitment to progressive causes.

Rewriting History and Making of A Nation: An Odyssey into the Historical Times of India in Kamleshwar Partition (2016).

This work the religious and communal disputes before and during the Partition, profoundly impacting people's souls. Additionally, it reveals the heart-wrenching narrative of a family's daughter shunned by her relatives and society. Through Pooro, who serves as Amrita Pritam's representative, the book aims to bring to light the forgotten struggles of women before and after the Partition. It depicts how patriarchy and divisions leave individuals with permanent wounds. Amrita Pritam was deeply disturbed by the catastrophic aftermath of the Partition.

Burhan Bashir, Poetry of Resistance: A Study with Reference to Faiz Ahmad Faiz (2017)

Faiz's poetry, composed while he was outside of Pakistan, reflects the unbreakable connection he maintained with his homeland. Despite his physical absence, his heart and soul remained deeply rooted in Pakistan. He dedicated himself tirelessly to seeking solutions for his nation's problems. In his poetry, the poet emphasizes his role as a conscientious citizen who is willing to endure hardships for the greater good of his fellow countrymen.

Sara Kazmi, Radical Re-tellings of Hir: Gender and the Politics of Voice in Postcolonial Punjabi Poetry (2019)

In her renowned poem "Aj Akhan Waris Shah Nu" [Today I call on Waris Shah], Pritam carries forward this tradition by resurrecting Waris Shah to highlight the role of regional and nationalist authorities in the gender-based violence that occurred during the 1947 Partition of Punjab. Pritam summons the spirit of Waris Shah during the pivotal moment of independence

to craft a feminist perspective within the discourse surrounding national culture, which was prompted by the process of decolonization and the Partition in India and Pakistan.

Ahsan Ul Haq, Faiz Ahmad Faiz: A Study of Resistance, Protest and Voice for Society in his Poetry (2020)

According to Faiz, the poet plays a crucial role in shaping revolutionary ideas, instigating the desire to engage in struggle, and ultimately driving concrete actions. His poetry possesses a compelling voice with a message that holds significance in the intricate socio-political landscape of the contemporary world.

Manal Aqil, Maryem Manzoor, Hafiz Muhammad Shahbaz The Impact Of Language And Culture In *Ajj Akhan Waris Shah Nu* (2022)

The essence of culture is deeply ingrained and intricate. It represents the values of each nation, and these values are the reliable means through which individuals from diverse backgrounds come together and influence one another. Culture is the product of individuals within distinct periods, regions, and moral frameworks, encompassing the entire societal norms in terms of social beliefs, traditions, systems, and ethics.

CHAPTERISATION

CHAPTER 1 Historic Perspective On Partition

A pivotal moment in global history that resulted in the formation of two sovereign states, India and Pakistan, was the partition of India in 1947. The partition was a consequence of the struggle for Indian independence from British colonial rule, which had been ongoing for several decades. The partition was announced in June 1947, and the new boundary line between India and Pakistan was drawn by a British lawyer, Cyril Radcliffe.

CHAPTER 2 An Analysis Of Violence In The Poetry Of Faiz Ahmed Faiz and Ali Sadar Jafri

The partition unleashed a wave of brutal Violence, including communal riots, massacres, and targeted killings. The Violence resulted in the forced migration and displacement of millions of people. Families were uprooted, leaving their belongings and cherished memories behind. *Subh-e-Azadi (Dawn of Freedom)* was written by Faiz Ahmed Faiz, the poem shows the violence that happened to mankind. Portrays the brutalities committed by both Hindus and Muslims, revealing the horrors and human suffering caused by communal violence also pinned by Ali Sardar Jafri's *Khoon(Blood)*.

CHAPTER 3 An Analyses of Social Transformation In The Poetry Of Amrita Pritam and Sahir Ludhinvi

India and Pakistan share a common historical burden stemming from the partition, which ruptured the destinies of their lands, homes, siblings, neighbours, rivers, blood ties, and people. Amrita Pritam, a pioneering female Punjabi writer of the modern era, wrote *Ajj Aakhaan Waris Shah,* Through her poetry, she embarked on a transformative journey to redefine the interpretation of partition's trauma, women's roles, gender dynamics, nostalgia, humanity, religious matters, justice, truth, and aesthetics. Sahir Ludhianvi's poetry often reflected the pain, loss, and longing experienced by those affected by this historic event. *"Parchhaiyan"* is one of Sahir Ludhianvi's well-known poems that reflects the anguish of partition. It speaks of the shadows left behind by those forced to leave their homes and the memories that haunt them.

CHAPTER 4 An Analyses of Political Ideology In The Poetry Of Gulzar and Shiv Kumar Batalvi,

Gulzar is celebrated as one of India's most prominent contemporary poets and lyricists. His poetic works are characterised by their depth, thought-provoking themes, and evocative language. *"Kitaabain"* is a poignant poem by Gulzar that reflects on the impact of partition, particularly the loss and separation of loved ones. It touches on themes of nostalgia, memory, and the desire to reunite with those who were separated due to political ideologies. On the other side, Shiv Kumar Batalvi was a prominent Punjabi poet and he wrote *Jithe Ittran de Wagne Ne Cho (Where Perfumed Rivers Flow)* which is evocative and emotionally charged poetry.

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

Men and women suffered physical harm and devastation during and after Partition, leaving wounds that will never fade away. The victims and survivors had fatal injuries and organ malfunctions on a physical level. Suicidal thoughts and post-traumatic stress disorder were among the psychological effects. A few elements of analyzing poetry that will be taken in the research are structure, form, speaker, language, mood, etc. Two theories will be used one is Identity Theory and another is Conflict theory. The challenges of women who were forced to fend for themselves amid turmoil and uncertainty are highlighted in the selected poems, which provide an intelligent and moving depiction of the brutality and displacement that took place during this turbulent time in history.

DESCRIPTION OF BROAD AREA

This study will examine the partition literature in the context of the Partition of 1947. A comprehensive analysis of the social and political issues is essential, and one of the most evocative ways to do so is through the lens of poetry. This literary medium provides a unique insight into the emotions, experiences, and complexities surrounding this historic event. With the assistance of eminent poets like Shiv Kumar Batalvi, Ali Sardar Jafri, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, and many more poets will be explored. By examining the styles and techniques employed by various poets during this tumultuous period, we can gain a deeper understanding of the multifaceted nature of their work and the diverse themes they explored. Furthermore, this analysis allows us to justify the poetic output of these selected poets, highlighting the significant role they played in chronicling the human suffering and turmoil caused by partition. Through their verses, they offer a poignant interpretation of partition, capturing the enduring saga of pain and loss.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To analyze the social and political issues related to Partition 1947, through the poetry
2. To evaluate their styles of writing and discuss the themes implemented in their poetry
3. To justify the poetic output of selected poets in the context of tragic echoes of Partition
4. To interpret the saga of pain as represented in the selected poetry
5. To make a comparative analysis of different ideas reflected in the selected poets and their poetry during the partition

METHODOLOGY

The methodology that is implied while carrying out this research work is listed:

1. The research follows a qualitative approach. The proposed study investigates the difficulties of women or men induced by societal constructs in the selected poems of partition, such as Amrita Pritam, Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Sahir Ludhianvi, Shiv Kumar Batalvi and many more.
2. Original poems based on the 1947 partition will be analyzed.
3. Some libraries such as the Library of Jawaharlal Nehru University, the Library of Delhi University, the Delhi Public Library, the Mathura Research Institute, and Museums like the Government Museum, Mathura will be visited.
4. Available interviews of the poets as well as other poets who have written about the same themes would be taken into consideration.

EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE RESEARCH

This study will analyze the social and political issues related to Partition 1947, through poetry.

2 The aim is to evaluate the styles of writing and discuss the themes implemented in their poetry.

3 The focus of the study will be justifying the poetic output of selected poets in the context of tragic echoes of Partition.

4 This study aims to interpret the saga of pain as represented in the selected poetry.

5 This research will make a comparative analysis of different ideas reflected in the selected poets and their poetry during the partition.

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Supervisor: Dr. Swati Chauhan

Department: S.MEH

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by Mahima Gaur

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DR. SWATI CHAUHAN

Associate Professor, Department of English, SMeH

Department of English
School of Media Studies and Humanities
Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies
(Deemed to be University), Faridabad
Sector-43, Faridabad, Haryana, India

ABSTRACT

The division of the Indian subcontinent is a deep and calamitous historical incident, marked by an unmatched and bone-chilling human catastrophe. This historical moment marked the beginning of a profound period of change for British India. People were divided into groups based on religion and culture and then migrated unwillingly which led to massive violence; they fractured and how to distinguish themselves. However, promoting interfaith harmony remained a fundamental value shared by all cultures. The scars of the partition, including

communal Violence and displacement, continue to shape the collective memory of India and Pakistan. It was a catastrophic incident that cannot be undone in history. This research will be a thematic study, along with the evaluation of writing techniques that were implemented by the poets. This research aims to analyze a collection of poems using a systematic and thematic approach, incorporating the poetic output of the selected poets. The calamitous impact of the partition cannot be undone, and its repercussions are still felt today. The current study focuses on factors related to why and what was destroyed during and after the partition with culture, religion, caste, social standing, and other factors being the primary and key reasons.

Keywords: Poetry, Violence, Religion, Migration, Partition.

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